

Appendix F.

Minuteman Bikeway Brochure in Miniature, 2002

Minuteman Bikeway

America's Most Celebrated Bike Path



www.MinutemanBikeway.org

The Minuteman Bikeway passes through the historic area where the American Revolution began in April 1775. Today, the bikeway is one of the most popular and successful rail-trails in the United States, enjoyed by thousands of people each day for both healthy recreation and transportation. It has become a new type of "Main Street" where neighbors and strangers alike come together while riding, walking, or skating on the path.

Built by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on an inactive railroad corridor, the Minuteman Bikeway has become a treasured regional resource, used by local residents and visitors from near and far. Connecting to the Alewife "T" Station in Cambridge, the bikeway provides an easy way for bicyclists and pedestrians to travel to subway and bus lines, serving to reduce automobile traffic in the area.

The bikeway is collectively managed and maintained by the four communities it passes through: Bedford, Lexington, Arlington, and Cambridge.



Minuteman Statue
Lexington Center

Bikeway Basics

Location: Bedford, Lexington, Arlington, and Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Length: 11 miles, with mile-marker posts.

Terrain: Level.

Surface: Asphalt pavement, 12 feet wide.

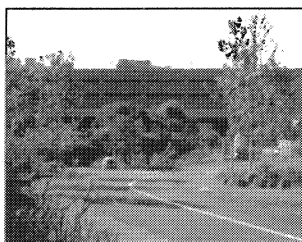
Hours: Open 5:00am-9:00pm, year-round.

Uses: Bicycling, walking, jogging, in-line skating, cross-country skiing. No motorized vehicles allowed, except for motorized wheelchairs. The bikeway is not plowed in winter (except near Alewife Station).

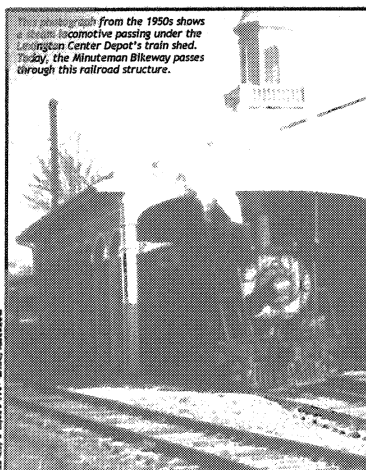
Website: www.MinutemanBikeway.org

Map: See reverse side for a detailed map and directions.

Refreshments and toilets: Available at Bedford Freight House (seasonal outhouses), Lexington Visitor's Center, Alewife Station, and nearby business districts along the bikeway.

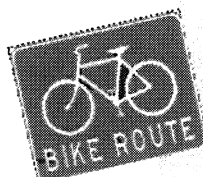


The Minuteman Bikeway connects to the Alewife MBTA Station in Cambridge, providing transportation access to subway and bus service.



Minuteman Milestones

- 1775 American revolution started along the historic corridor where Minuteman Bikeway passes today.
- 1846 Railroad built, providing both passenger and freight service.
- 1974 Concept first proposed to convert the rail corridor to a commuter bicycle path.
- 1981 Rail service discontinued.
- 1991 Final plan for rail trail conversion approved, and construction started on Minuteman Bikeway.
- 1992 Minuteman bikeway officially dedicated and named the 200th rail-trail in USA.
- 1993 Bikeway construction completed.
- 1994 Bikeway honored for Urban Design Excellence, Boston Society of Architects.
- 1996 Bikeway extended from East Arlington to Alewife Station in Cambridge.
- 2000 Minuteman bikeway recognized as a Millennium Trail by the White House and Rails-to-Trails Conservancy.
- 2002 More than 1,150 rail-trails have developed across USA, with even more coming soon!



Guidelines for Sharing the Path

General Guidelines for ALL Bikeway Users

- **EVERYONE: KEEP TO THE RIGHT** except to pass.
- Look carefully before entering or crossing the bikeway.
- Pass on the left, only when safe. Give an audible warning before passing another bikeway user.
- Make a complete stop at all intersections.
- When stopping, move off the pavement to allow other bikeway users to pass.
- Yield to emergency and maintenance vehicles.
- For bikeway updates on the web, see www.MinutemanBikeway.org.

Bicycling

- Helmets are recommended for all cyclists and required by state law for children under 13.
- Stop your bicycle, if necessary, to yield or to prevent an accident. Bicyclists must yield to pedestrians.
- Bicyclists may ride two abreast only when safe (when the bikeway is uncrowded). Never ride three or more abreast.
- Bicycle headlight is required when riding at night.
- Ride at a safe speed. (When the bikeway is crowded, you might need to slow down.)

Walking / Jogging

- Keep to the right when walking or running on the path.
- Look before entering the bikeway or changing direction.
- Don't walk or run more than two abreast.

In-Line Skating

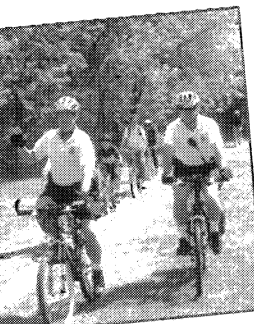
- Helmets, kneepads, and wristguards are advised.
- Keep to the right so that other users may pass safely.
- Skate single file when the bikeway is busy.
- Skate at a safe speed, and be prepared to stop suddenly.

Common Courtesy

- Do not litter or trespass on private property.
- Keep your dog on a leash. Pick up after your dog.
- Respect other bikeway users. Share the path.



See you on
the bikeway!



Above: Police officers escort a community bike tour near the Alewife station. Most towns along the bikeway operate Police Bike Units.

Left: Cyclists stopped for a break at the Alewife station. Refreshments and railroad-related souvenirs are available in the Bedford Freight House.



Above: After a snowfall, the Minuteman Bikeway turns into a scenic trail for cross-country skiing. The bikeway is not plowed or treated with harsh roadway chemicals in winter.

Right, top: Volunteers clean up the MassBike/Wald Memorial area, beside the bikeway in East Arlington. Many community groups assist with the bikeway's upkeep.

Right: Bicyclists stop to buy some lemonade from some enterprising youngsters along the bikeway.



Contacts

Cambridge Bicycle Committee
Community Development Dept.
City Hall Annex, 37 Innis St.
Cambridge, MA 02139
617-349-4604

Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee
Planning & Development Dept.
Arlington Town Hall
Arlington, MA 02476
781-314-3090

Lexington Bicycle Advisory Committee
Town Manager's Office
Lexington Town Offices
Lexington, MA 02420
781-462-0500 x276

Bedford Bicycle Committee
Town Administrator's Office
Bedford Town Hall
Bedford, MA 01730
781-275-1111

Massachusetts Bicycle Coalition (MassBike)
59 Temple Place #669
Boston, MA 02111
617-542-2453
www.massbike.org

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
1100 17th St. N.W., 10th floor
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Dedications

In Lexington in 1992, the Minuteman Bikeway was dedicated to the memory of Jack Edson, who served many years as a Selectman.

In Arlington in 2000, the bikeway was dedicated to Donald Marquis, who served 34 years as Town Manager.

Twenty years in planning, the Minuteman Bikeway might well be a testament to the tireless efforts of two community advocates: Tom Farnsworth of Lexington and Alan MacCawson, Jr. of Arlington.

Tom and Alan, we thank you for making your dreams of a bikeway come true: the community dedication this publication is to you.



Cambridge Savings Bank
is pleased to support this guide for the Minuteman Bikeway.

Our bank offices are located in Cambridge, Belmont, Arlington, Lexington, Bedford, and Burlington. Main tel. 888-418-5626. For locations near the bikeway, see the map on the reverse side.

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Minuteman Bikeway

Bedford, Lexington, Arlington, and Cambridge — Massachusetts
Web: www.MinutemanBikeway.org

Coming Attractions

A decade after its completion, the Minuteman Bikeway continues to inspire community-related improvements along its historic corridor — including these projects currently in the works:

The future Bedford Depot Park will enhance the Bedford terminus of the Minuteman Bikeway with improved landscaping, public sanitary facilities, new benches and lighting, and increased public parking. A retired Boston & Maine Railroad passenger car has already been brought on site for restoration. In addition, the 1870s Railroad Depot and Freight House structures have been purchased for historic preservation. When completed, Bedford's Depot Park is expected to be a model transportation enhancement project, funded with federal TEA-21 money. For more information, see www.bedforddepot.org on the web.

The Lexington Center Depot will soon become a Tourist and Exhibit Center, in association with the Lexington Historical Society. On the bikeway side, under the depot's train shed, bikeway users can purchase drinks and snacks at the depot's former "ticket windows." In front of Depot Square, the reconstructed Emory Park will feature widened sidewalks, new public benches, and a loading area for local Express bus passengers. Project completion is expected in 2003.



"When I see an adult on a bicycle, I do not despair for the future of the human race."

— H. G. Wells



Getting Here

By bicycle: Plan a local bike route to the Minuteman Bikeway using the Eastern Massachusetts Bicycle Map or Boston's BikeMap, available at local bike shops and bookstores.

By public transportation: The Alewife "T" Station, at the east end of the Minuteman Bikeway, provides access to/from the metro-Boston subway system (via the Red Line) as well as numerous bus routes. For routes and schedules, visit the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) website at www.mbta.com, or call 617-222-3200 (toll-free: 1-800-392-6100).

By car to Bedford: Coming from Interstate 95 (MA-Rte 128), take exit 31B for Routes 4/225 North toward Bedford. Proceed 1.1 mile, then turn left on Loomis St. Go to end of street to intersection with South Rd. Bikeway is adjacent to the Freight House building.

By car to Arlington/Lexington: Municipal parking lots are available in Lexington Center and Arlington Center (see map), near the bikeway.

By car to Alewife/Cambridge: Take Route 2 toward Cambridge, and enter the Alewife "T" Station parking area. Parking fee charged upon exiting. Bikeway is to the west of the station.

Bikes on the "T"

Bicycles are allowed on MBTA Commuter Rail and subway trains (Red, Orange, and Blue Lines) all day on weekends and during off-peak hours on weekdays (Mon-Fri: 10am-2pm and after 7:30pm). You do not need a special pass to bring your bike on the T, so it's easy!

Bicycle Maps and Touring Information

Massachusetts has some of the best bicycle maps in the country. For areas near the Minuteman Bikeway, we suggest Boston's BikeMap, the Eastern Massachusetts Bicycle Map, and the Cape Cod & North Shore Bicycle Map. In addition to recommended bicycle routes and paths, these regional bicycle maps contain information on local mountain-biking areas, bicycle shops, ice-cream shops, B&Bs, rail-road connections, state parks and campgrounds, and picnic areas. For more information, visit Rubel BikeMaps' website at www.rubelbike.com.

For information about bicycle touring in Massachusetts, visit www.massbike.org/touring on the web.

Local Bike Shops

For a listing of local bike stores near the Minuteman Bikeway (many of which repair bicycles), refer to the MassBike website at www.massbike.org/membership/shops.htm.

For safety and better performance, we encourage you to have your bike professionally serviced (tuned up) at least once per year.

Open Spaces

The Minuteman Bikeway borders many open space areas, the largest of which is Arlington's Great Meadows (shown in photo at right with bikeway in foreground), located in East Lexington.

Comprising 183 acres, Arlington's Great Meadows is one of the largest publicly owned open spaces in the area. Mostly landlocked with limited roadway access, the area is best reached from the bikeway in East Lexington.

For those interested in stepping off the bikeway, Great Meadows offers miles of trails suitable for hiking, bird-watching, botanizing, and cross-country skiing. A natural wetlands in the Mystic River Watershed region, this land also serves to control flooding in the area.

For more information, see the Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows website at www.foagm.org.

Above: Two bicycles resting on the banks of Spy Pond in Arlington. The 100-acre pond is a scenic high point along the bikeway.

Right: Arlington's Great Meadows in Lexington, with the Minuteman Bikeway in the foreground.

Wear a Helmet

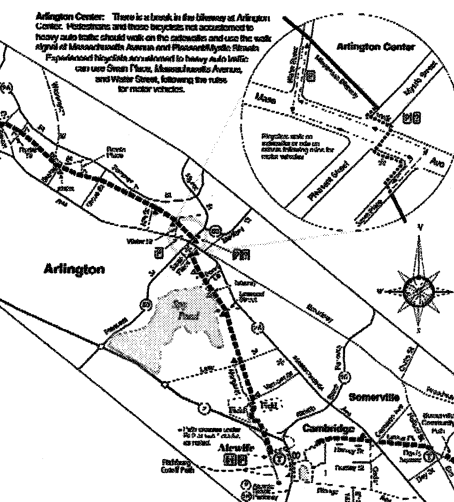
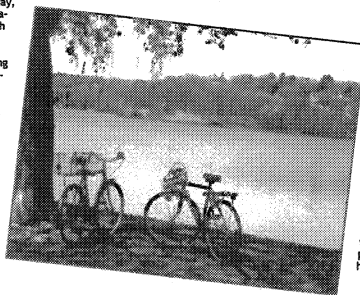
Accidents happen sometimes, and it's important to protect your head in case of sudden impact. We strongly urge everyone to wear a protective helmet while bicycling or in-line skating.

For more information, visit the Bicycle Helmet Safety Institute's website at www.bhsl.org.

Share the Road

Bicycles are vehicles too. Massachusetts state law considers the bicycle a fully legitimate vehicle. Bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as motorists when using our public roadways. For community safety, please drive, bicycle, and walk responsibly — and share the road with others.

You have transportation choices. To help ease traffic congestion, consider walking, bicycling, or taking public transportation for short-distance destinations. You'll probably enjoy your trip more, and we will have one less car on the road.



Beyond the Minuteman Bikeway

Bicycle routes: The roadways around the Minuteman Bikeway offer some of the best bicycling areas in New England. For recommended bike-touring and transportation routes, check out the Massachusetts Bicycle Maps, Boston's BikeMap, and the Bicycling Street Smarts guide — available at area bike shops and bookstores.

Multi-use paths near the Minuteman Bikeway:

- **Narrow-Gauge Rail-Trail** (Bedford): Stone-dust trail near the end of the Minuteman Bikeway in Bedford to North Billerica; see bikeway map above for location.
- **Reformatory Branch Rail-Trail** (Bedford, Concord): Unpaved trail from the end of the Minuteman Bikeway in Bedford, ending near the historic Old North Bridge in Concord; see bikeway map for location.
- **Bottle Road Trail** — Minute Man National Historical Park (Lexington, Lincoln, Concord): Stone-dust trail providing cycling and walking access to the national park's historical and natural resource areas; located beyond the bikeway map.
- **Fitchburg Cutoff Bike Path** (Belmont): Unpaved rail-trail from northwest corner of Alewife MBTA station to Brighton St. near the Cambridge-Belmont line.
- **Linear Park Path / Somerville Community Path** (Cambridge, Somerville): Paved bike paths from Alewife Station in North Cambridge to Davis Square and beyond in Somerville; see map above. Plans are under way to extend this path to Boston.
- **Charles River Bike Paths** (Boston, Cambridge, Watertown): 14-mile paved loop traveling alongside both banks of the Charles River from the Museum of Science in Boston to Watertown, passing through the Boston Esplanade; located beyond the bikeway map.

For a complete listing of bike paths in Massachusetts (both existing and future), see MassBike's informative website at www.massbike.org/bikeway.

Want more bike paths? Dozens of proposed bike paths are still waiting to be built in Massachusetts. To help support future bikeways, join the Massachusetts Bicycle Coalition (MassBike) and Rails-to-Trails Conservancy — see contact info on reverse side. You can also get involved in your local community to promote bike-path projects.